

MARIN COUNTY CONGESTION MANAGEMENT AGENCY

CENTRAL MARIN COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ACTION MINUTES JULY 23, 2003

Members Present: Susan Adams, Rocky Birdsey, Al Boro, Damon Connolly, Joy Dahlgren, Don Dickenson, Welcome Fawcett, Tom Hinman, Phil Kranenburg, Harriot Manley, Patrick Murphy, Roger Smith, Bob Sonnenberg

Members Absent: Lan Kauffman

Staff Present: Dean Powell, Marin County Department of Public Works; and Bonnie Nelson, Congestion Management Agency Consultant

Others: Rod Gould, San Rafael City Manager; Andy Preston, Interim San Rafael Public Works Director; Eric Anderson, Marin County Bicycle Coalition; John Eels; Tim Gilbert; and Don Wilhelm

The meeting was convened at 4:09 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2 APPROVAL OF ACTION MINUTES OF JULY 2, 2003

M/s, Kranenburg/Boro, and passed unanimously to approve the July 2, 2003 action minutes with modification to include a reference to the Frequently Asked Questions handout to supplement the list of noted discussion topics.

3. PRESENTATION ON THE LOCAL STREET AND ROADS ELEMENT AND REVIEW OF GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION OF THE CMA/BOS JOINT COMMITTEE

Staff presented information on the guidelines and general direction of the CMA/BOS Joint Committee for the Local Streets and Roads element of the draft Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan. On behalf of the Joint Committee, staff was seeking community input on: (1) the preliminary allocation of 25-35% of the sales tax revenues towards the Local Streets and Roads element; (2) the long and short lists of Roadways of Countywide Significance; and (3) any feedback on the other recommendations made by the Public Works Directors concerning Local Streets and Roads issues.

Committee discussion and public comment topics included: (1) how the Public Works Directors arrived at their recommendation that 35% of the sales tax revenues be allocated to the Local Streets and Roads element; (2) how the Joint Committee arrived at their 25-35% allocation range for the Local Streets and Roads element; (3) other funding sources, including the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and Proposition 42, and the ability to establish flexibility in the Expenditure Plan allocation pending actual revenue realized from these sources; (4) the actual gap between funding needs and projected revenue for the Local Streets and Roads element; (5) whether an Expenditure Plan can guarantee a "maintenance of effort" for existing local funds dedicated to transportation; (6) whether an Expenditure Plan can guarantee that allocated funds will be used for the selected expenditures over the long term; (7) the assumptions used by the Public Works Directors in selecting the Roadways of Countywide Significance; (8) the option of combining the Local Streets and Roads and Local Return elements; (9) costs associated with meeting requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); (10) whether ADA improvements, bicycle and pedestrian projects, transit needs, and traffic calming measures are included in the Local Streets and Roads element; (11) how street beautification projects could be considered in the Local Return element; (12) whether Public Works agencies coordinate projects to save costs; (13) the total miles of streets and roads in the County, as well as the total miles of the Roadways of Countywide Significance; (14) how Local Streets and Roads projects could improve mobility and whether voters will support the use of sales tax revenues for these projects; (15) how a dedicated source of local funds for streets and roads projects would enable STIP funds to be used for major, congestion relieving projects; and (16) what "consideration of bike and pedestrian improvements" means in implementing Local Streets and Roads projects. (Information on these topics can be found in the July staff report and the "Frequently Asked Questions #2" handout in the August staff report.)

Sense of the Committee – The committee arrived at a general consensus on the following:

- The committee will provide input on the preliminary allocation range for the Local Streets and Roads element after reviewing all four draft Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan elements.
- The committee needs more information on the actual gap between funding needs and projected revenue for the Local Streets and Roads element before input on the preliminary allocation range is provided.
- The long list of Roadways of Countywide Significance should be amended to:
 - Change Francisco Boulevard to Francisco Boulevard East (San Rafael)
 - Add Francisco Boulevard West (San Rafael)
 - Remove Merrydale Road (San Rafael)
 - Remove Center Street (San Rafael)
 - Add 5th Avenue (San Rafael)
 - Remove Smith Ranch Road (San Rafael)
- The short list of Roadways of Countywide Significance should be amended to:
 - Add Las Gallinas Avenue/Los Ranchitos Road/Lincoln Avenue
 - Limit North San Pedro Avenue to the China Camp State Park boundary or Sunny Oaks Drive
 - Limit Point San Pedro Avenue to the China Camp State Park boundary or Biscayne Drive
 - Limit Paradise Drive to north of Trestle Glen Boulevard only
- Consensus on other related issues included:
 - Local Streets and Roads projects should include the entire right-of-way and consider bicycle, pedestrian, and transit needs, ADA requirements, and traffic calming measures. Street beautification projects should be considered as part of the Local Return element.
 - Local streets and roads should not be allowed to deteriorate too much to maintain cost effectiveness of projects.
 - Criteria for Roadways of Countywide Significance should include Average Daily Traffic, Level of Service, transit use, bicycle and pedestrian use, ADA needs, and accident rate data.
- The committee recommends that Local Streets and Roads projects consider the needs of all potential users of the roadway by implementing recommended improvements in applicable, local bicycle and pedestrian plans and the Safe Routes to School capital improvements list where feasible.

4. PRESENTATION ON THE SCHOOL ACCESS ELEMENT AND REVIEW OF GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION OF THE CMA/BOS JOINT COMMITTEE

Staff presented information on the guidelines and general direction of the CMA/BOS Joint Committee for the School Access element of the draft Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan. On behalf of the Joint Committee, staff was seeking community input on: (1) the preliminary allocation of 10-15% of the sales tax revenues towards the School Access element; (2) a sense of local priority on the various components of the School Access element; and (3) any feedback on folding the School Pool program into the Safe Routes to School program (SR2S).

Committee discussion and public comment topics included: (1) trip linking, the percentage of school trips during the morning peak hours, and the number of school trips on Highway 101; (2) the effectiveness of the SR2S in reducing vehicle trips; (3) the number of Marin schools participating in the SR2S program; (4) whether the SR2S programs needs the same level of funding throughout the life of a sales tax; (5) how the lack of crossing guards at busy intersections was cited as the most common reason why parents did not let their children walk or ride a bike to school; (6) the cost effectiveness of the school programs for reducing local congestion; and (7) the importance of emphasizing safe pathways, ADA improvements, curb cuts, crosswalks, signals, etc. that benefit more than just school children as part of the School Access capital improvements expenditure subcategory. (Information on these topics can be found in the July staff report and the “Frequently Asked Questions #2” handout in the August staff report.)

Sense of the Committee – The committee arrived at a general consensus on the following:

- The committee will provide input on the preliminary allocation range for the School Access element after reviewing all four draft Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan elements.
- The committee generally supported the various components of the School Access element, including folding the School Pool program into the SR2S program as suggested by the Joint Committee.

5. FOLLOW-UP TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

Staff confirmed that the Frequently Asked Questions handout would be expanded and distributed with the next month meeting packet to reflect questions raised during today's meeting.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Hinman requested that the September CAC agenda include a discussion on selling the draft Expenditure Plan, including what prior polls found and the messages and lessons learned from the last sales tax measures.

7. CONFIRM/SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION

The next committee meeting is on Wednesday, August 20th, at 4:00 p.m. in the San Rafael Council Chamber.

Chair Connolly adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.